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*To ensure access to high-quality,
patient-centered, cost-effective
health care to Los Angeles County
residents through direct services at
DHS facilities and through
collaboration with community and
university partners.*



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November 18, 2015

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: Mitchell H. Katz, M.D. *Mitchell Katz*
Director

SUBJECT: **COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER PROGRAM CONTINUES
TO RECEIVE POSITIVE MEDIA COVERAGE**

Our Community Health Worker (CHW) program continues to generate positive national and regional press attention. An October article by Kaiser Health News reporter Anna Gorman ran in the *Daily Breeze*, the *Daily News* and other print publications in addition to airing on *National Public Radio* (NPR). The coverage points to the program as a replicable model to decrease healthcare costs and improve outcomes.

Also, this week the National Association of Counties (NACO) ran a story in its bi-monthly publication reaching over 30,000 elected officials. Another piece ran in September on the California Health Report website, an independent journalism project covering health and health policy throughout the state.

The CHW program is a key component of our system transformation and population health work. This specific effort focuses on connecting the sickest and most vulnerable primary care patients in the Department of Health Services system with trained community health workers who help patients self-manage chronic illnesses, address their individual needs, and effectively navigate the health system. Without this support, these individuals would be at high-risk for poor health outcomes, emergency department visits, and hospital admissions.

Our 24 CHWs are embedded within primary care teams and help improve both the patient's experience of care and their health outcomes. The initial roll-out occurred in primary care clinics at LAC+USC Medical Center and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center, Hubert H. Humphrey, Edward Roybal and El Monte Comprehensive Health Centers. Based on the initial success of the effort, we expect to enroll an additional 1,200 to 1,500 patients in the next six months.

Thank you for your continued support of this program. Should you have any questions, please contact me or our program director Clemens Hong, M.D. at (213) 240-8101.

MHK:mww